

NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Launches Redesigned Web Site With More Resources to Help Entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration has launched an extensively enhanced Web site designed to make it easier for small business owners and other users to access a wealth of agency resources.

"Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy, and we are committed to providing them with the best and latest tools and resources," said SBA Administrator Hector Barreto. "The redesigned Web site expands our capacity to reach new customers in new ways, and brings the SBA one step closer to becoming America's small business homepage."

The SBA Web site, with more than 50,000 documents, is one of the most effective resources the agency has to reach potential and current small business owners with tools and information to assist them in developing successful businesses. The site receives an average of more than 1.2 million visits weekly, the most frequently visited pages being Starting Your Own Business, Financing Your Business and How to Write a Business Plan.

The re-engineered site, at www.sba.gov, underwent widespread cosmetic and structural changes, as well as revisions of content. The changes not only will make navigation easier and more logical, but will give small business users access to a compelling interactive resource for the development and growth of their businesses.

Chief among the changes are:

- the use of plain English to explain the "what," "where," "why," and "how-to" of starting and running a business.
- five customer-centric access views: starting a business; financing a business; managing and growing a business; business opportunities; and disaster assistance.
- a sophisticated geo-mapping feature that makes it easy for customers all over the country to find and travel to nearby SBA district offices and resource partners.
- a comprehensive and fully searchable menu of business FAQs.
- more tutorials, counseling and a virtual training campus with more than 50 free online courses, a virtual library with more than 200 free E-books, and direct access to some 30 universities and colleges offering online business courses around the country
- new home pages for the 10 regional offices

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.